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# SOCER WORLD

THE VOICE OF  
AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

15c

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT SOCCER NEWSPAPER

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Best in Australia

Red Tulip

CONTINENTAL CHOCOLATES



"Come, dance with me . . ." or so young Prague forward Gary Manuel should have said to Melita's Cilia before literally taking his arm. —Photo by Tim Pockley.

## No tours, no trips clear possibility

In case your stomach can take even more, let us frankly warn you that thanks to your officialdom, you may not see any overseas teams in Australia this year.

Ian McAndrew, the ASF secretary, was unsuccessful in his bid last year to get either Real Madrid or Ferencvaros.

Then an 11th hour SOS was sent out to AC Napoli, offering them terms more than twice better than Manchester United got last year.

However, the Neapolitans are undecided — they demand even better terms.

Japan offered to play two matches here at the end of March and early April — but even these are up in the air now.

The two "senior States" are worried about the heavy overhead (some \$15,000) and are reluctant to stage the matches unless a sponsor can be found.

### \$64 QUESTION

Add to this the fact that Australia decided not to go to the Merdeka Tournament and later in the year probably won't be able to return to Saigon.

And all these petty, man-made setbacks only months after our Saigon triumph and all the brave words about our international future . . .

Not that we are really surprised.

We half expected that nothing would come of Australia's successful Asian tour.

Oh, yes, the ASF did re-appoint Joe Vlasits as national coach for 1968.

But the 64 dollar question is what he supposed

to coach, and against whom is our "phantom" national team supposed to play?

It appears almost certain that once again we'll go into a World Cup totally unprepared, without the benefit of any "warm-up" matches in sharp contrast with our Japanese and Korean opponents, whose international program is mapped well in advance.

### OLD WAYS

A decision regarding this year's "grand tour" of Australia was left horribly late.

For the 1967 tour, Manchester were signed up in July 1966.

The ASF have even a special committee to look after these matters.

Maybe we should return to the much abused yet simpler old ways of dealing with agents.

Even today a telephone call to the world's number one agent, Joseph Ukrainczyk in Paris would get us a choice of dozens of top teams.

And you don't even have to fly to Europe for them.

Another alternative could be to get immediately in touch with Mike Mazzina, the APIA coach, currently talent-scouting in South America.

It would be surprising if Mazzina, with all his Latin American contacts, wouldn't be able to contract a leading Brazilian, Uruguayan or Argentinian team in a matter of days.

— PAUL DEAN

## AUST. CUP IN DANGER FOLLOWING SHOCK VICTORIAN MOVE

— By PAUL DEAN —

**Fasten your seat belts and try to look serious: there may be NO Australia Cup this year.**

This is the latest episode in the sorry history of our "national" cup series.

And it would be gratifying to know just how much further the long-suffering soccer public will put up with this type of inane and inept type of management?

The events that led to this situation, are rather characteristic of the "leadership" we have.

And probably deserve.

Last week three Victorian officials came to Sydney to discuss matters of mutual interest.

When the matter of the Australia Cup was raised, the Victorians claimed that whatever decision had been reached at the Executive meeting in January applied to 1969, not 1968.

Of course, this is in black and white — or so one hopes.

When the meeting broke up, the NSW delegates went home convinced that there IS an Australia Cup in 1968, along the already published lines while the Victorians flew back in the belief that they dis-

covered yet another loop-hole in the ASF system.

Ian McAndrew, secretary of the ASF, this week categorically confirmed that the Australia Cup would be held this year, as scheduled.

In fact, it is due to start within a few weeks.

Yet our Victorian brethren live in the illusion that there is no Australia Cup.

One must wonder if the various delegates at the ASF Executive meetings — each costing several thousand dollars — sit on their ears.

There is not much point in having any kind of meetings at all if later some delegates "forget" the decisions.

If the Victorians are wrong about this, they must be branded as the

greatest trouble-makers in soccer.

If, by any chance, the ASF Executive goofed and failed to be specific about the Cup, those responsible should resign.

But the soccer public — and clubs — have the right to know what the heck goes on above their heads, in their behalf, using their money and jeopardising their future?

Your money comes back when you buy from Ampol, the Australian Company.

Why go past?



THE AUSTRALIAN COMPANY

# Sth. Sydney needs junior body now

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

The number of teams in district junior football is certain to grow dramatically again this year.

A round-up of Sydney Associations shows some exceptionally fine examples of growth of young players.

One club with a dozen teams reports it will field over 21 teams this year.

Wests will have a new club, starting with between seven and 11 teams of new players.

Manly will start a club with eight teams right from the jump.

Another district has gained a large number of teams drawn from four Catholic schools.

These are only a few of many such cases throughout Sydney.

Which raises the question — why no South Sydney Association?

There are enough senior teams drawn from South Sydney in adjacent competitions to start off an Association with a bang.

Even two senior divisions could be fielded.

It would only take a few enthusiasts to commence junior competitions.

## Weekly competitions

District representative competitions will be conducted on a weekly basis throughout the 1968 season.

Grades covered will be under-14, 15 and 16.

The Metropolitan Championships will be held from May to July.

The K.O. Competition for representative teams will be played in August, with the "Champion of Champions" series for clubs in September.

September will also feature the NSW championship finals.

## Western NSW

Martin van Gool and David Pritchard, both of Orange, have been appointed president and secretary respectively of the Western NSW Association.

Six district associations make up the branch body: Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange, Parkes, Forbes and Dubbo.

## PLAYERS WANTED

### BELMORE SOCCER CLUB

Federation Inter-Suburban Second Division Champions, First and Second Grade, 1967, is seeking players to trial for positions in their Inter-Suburban teams for season 1968. Interested persons may obtain full information from the Secretary, Mr. C. Hulett on 78-4384.

The Directors, Officials and Players of St. George-Budapest Soccer Club wish to express their deepest sympathy to the widow of MIKLOS PHILIPP, foundation member and former executive of the Club, who died last week.

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all the year round

# SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

The latest report we have heard on the oft-discussed and oft-forgotten TEMPE STADIUM project is that the area is unsuitable for development because a proposed expressway will eventually cut across the very centre of it.

The NSW State TEAM played against Manly and Prague at the Showground last Wednesday evening. The "probables" met Prague, the "possibles" took on Manly.

A story in an afternoon newspaper suggesting a SPLIT in St. George had uncommon effects: the same day the two players named announced that they would quit at once rather than cause trouble. However, both were quickly talked out of such action and everything is as it was before.

BANKSTOWN tried out 52 players at Allum Park on Sunday. Some players travelled from as far as Canley Vale and Guildford to take part in the very successful trials.

National team coach JOE VLASITS is about to submit a detailed list of recommend-

A three-man delegation from the VICTORIAN State League, led by chairman Gordon, visited Sydney last weekend to discuss matters concerning both States.

VIC FERNANDEZ' wife, Sandra, is expecting a baby in about eight weeks. The Fernandes already have a son — Victor junior.

GERRY HOOD will not be leaving Canterbury. According to club secretary, Andrew Vass, player and club have come to terms. Strapping stopper, JIM SAMBROOK,

IAN HILSDON, back from his holidays, is likely to re-occupy his post in Hakoah at left fullback this weekend.

Melita Eagles have placed DAVE REID on transfer for \$1250. Canterbury have shown some interest in signing him.

South Coast United bought TOM MULQUEENEY from Melita Eagles for \$450, and not for free as it was reported in the daily press.

Improvements costing more than \$11,000 have been carried out at MACARTHUR PARK — the home ground of Granville-Parramatta.

Three MANLY players will take the vows of matrimony during the season. They are Jimmy Hughes, Jan Tuinman and Tony Parker.

however, is still hankering for a transfer and rumor has it his old club, APIA, may be interested in re-signing him. Sambrook was exchanged for goalie Taylor last year.

All members are invited to attend the ANNUAL MEETING of the NSW Federation of Soccer Coaches, to be held at Hellenic House, Elizabeth Street, Sydney, on Wednesday, March 6, at 8 p.m.

If the JAPANESE national team's tour does take place, the ASF hopes to secure the sponsorship of a large Japanese company.

Last Saturday HAKOAH beat Croatia 2-1 in a trial game. Newcomer Keddie played one half and showed up well.

FRANK CUSH's operation was a success. The young Croatia striker is impatient to start training again and is very hopeful of returning to the side by the middle of April at the latest.

The first FILM NIGHT at the St. George-Budapest Club at Mortdale last Thursday was a huge success. An overflow crowd of nearly 500 people saw films of the 1967 English FA Cup Final, last season's Inter Milan v. Celtic European Cup Final and the famous 1953 Wembley match between England and Hungary. Films will be shown at the club every second Thursday.

**REFEREES REQUIRED**  
For NSW Soccer Referees' Assn. (Sydney Branch) to referee Sydney Amateur League matches. For inquiries, please contact R. Flippence on 632-4082 (after 5.30 p.m.).

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# Hakoah may have too many to choose from

By PAUL DEAN —

**A surfeit of players, all first team material, may cause Hakoah its biggest headache this year.**

After a fairly lean season, the pale-blues are again on the march; some incorrigible forecasters even tip them to win some major honors.

If they had a choice, I am sure Hakoah would prefer to win the premiership, to most clubs with a European background still the most coveted prize there is, and one honor that has eluded them so far.

But if they don't win this, they should go very close to it.

At present, Hakoah's player material is possibly the richest in Sydney.



COACH DOUG HOLDEN

What makes it even more palatable is the fact that the average age of the current first team is only about 23.

In goal they are likely to stick to Fuze, ex-Australian keeper who, with his uni exams behind him, should regain his old touch; Wilson and a couple of youngsters stand by.

At the moment they have five fullbacks to choose from — and choosing won't be easy.

Kingpin of this last line of defence is the big, hard and immensely functional Marnoch, undoubtedly the best stopper in Australia.

His is a success story of its own; it was former coach Tiko Jelisavice who formulated a brilliant stopper out of a mediocre forward.

Around him you can have either the experienced pair of Edwards and Hillsdon or the young tandem of Stewart and Sutherland or possibly a combination of the two.

One has the feeling that Edwards will find it most difficult to regain his place in the team — of which he almost became coach.

Two years ago the Hakoah wing half pair of Walsh and Duffy was one of Australia's best; Walsh is now back in Britain (perhaps temporarily) while Duffy is on transfer.

Yet Hakoah, luckily for them, have found an exciting young pair in newly arrived Gardiner and Yaager.

Gardiner, still only 17, plays with the aplomb of a veteran while Yaager, originally signed as a forward, seems to have found his métier midfield where he could become one of Sydney's best.

Fekete, so far sidelined, was originally groomed for the right half post and it must puzzle Hakoah officials what to do with this talented ball-player, still only about 22.

The forward line has been built on the broad but young shoulders of Baartz, currently the most valuable forward property in Australia — Abonyi notwithstanding.

How this youngster has matured and developed in the one year since his arrival from Newcastle is almost incredible.

Today he embodies all the virtues of a modern forward: covers a very large area, grafts midfield and is the team's most consistent goallighter, playing in a style very reminiscent of a good George Yardley.

John Watkiss, the recently signed former APIA star and Australia's most expensive footballer, will represent a tremendous gain in the forward line, once he gets fully fit.



ALAN MARNOCHE

At present he is nursing a stubborn calf injury which, some fear, could be a recurrence of the trouble that plagued him on the Asian tour.

But once Watkiss gets fully fit, his partnership with Baartz will be perhaps the most menacing in Sydney.

Ex-South Coaster Barnett, signed mainly to act as goalkooper, can be a mini-Greaves though he has yet to prove his worth to his new club.

And then you have that vastly underrated ballplayer Atoua, an ideal grafter on a dry, firm pitch; the two for-

mer Queenslanders, wingers Jones and Edmunds and the newly arrived Scottish inside forward, Keddie, not to mention at least half a dozen youngsters soon demanding a place under the sun.

Even if Edwards and Duffy leave the club — as it is being rumored — Hakoah will have a formidable line-up which could read thus:

Fuzes — Stewart, Marnoch, Hillsdon — Gardiner, Yaager — Jones (Fekete), Atoua, Watkiss, Baartz, Barnett (Edmunds).

It will take quite a team to toss them.

## ...OR SO THEY SAY

"Watkiss's game has further developed in the past few years and he is expected to add much needed thrust into the Hakoah forward line. However, unless attendances at matches increase appreciably during the coming season Hakoah's supporters will no doubt have to dig deep into their pockets to pay for the transfer fee."

(Jewish Times, Feb. 8).

"FIFA will suggest that all elimination matches in the Oceanic and Asian World Cup group be played as a tournament in Japan."

(Soccer World, Feb. 9).

"Australia's World Cup elimination matches against Japan, South Korea and Rhodesia may be played as a tournament in Japan".

(Melbourne Soccer-Tennis News, Feb. 16).

"Schauman, who played for NSW against Everton, one of England's leading clubs, four years ago, has been playing on and off for the last five or six years in South Africa. He formerly played with St. George before making his first trek to South Africa but returned soon after and had a spell with South Sydney-Croatia before taking off again."

(John Nowak, Mirror, Feb. 14).

"Officials are wondering if ASF Secretary Ian Anderson's trip overseas was really necessary. He went to Spain, England, Scotland, Switzerland, Germany, etc., in search of a team to tour Australia. The only country he didn't visit was Italy — and they're sending a team here this year!"

(Melbourne Soccer-Tennis News, Feb. 15).

"It is quite stupid. No one could possibly enforce such a rule. And as far as I can see there is no reason at all why Melita Eagles-Newtown cannot play their imports from New Zealand any time they feel like it. Well that's what the Boss says."

(Sir William Walkley in the Mirror, Feb. 16).

"Walter Tamandl, the former crack Rapid (Austria) inside-forward, is trying to make a comeback to First Division soccer with Pan Hellenic."

(Jim Pomfrett, Sun, Feb. 16).

"Kerklaan, who transferred to APIA from Melbourne's George Cross two years ago, has fitted well into the APIA forward line and has a long playing future left."

(Jim Pomfrett, Sun, Feb. 16).

Intending players for the Pan Hellenic Junior Soccer Club

for the  
1968 SEASON  
are invited to attend  
for  
registration purposes

at  
MOORE PARK  
KIPPAX LAKE AREA  
(Number 13 Soccer Pitch)  
or  
(Number 19 Cricket Pitch)

on  
SUNDAY, 25th  
FEBRUARY, 1968  
AT  
10 O'CLOCK

## Airfares real Merdeka stopper

Australia would consider participation in the Merdeka Tournament if at least half our air fares were to be paid, NSWFS president Jim Bayutti said this week.

Bayutti denies that the decision to refuse any possible invitation to the Merdeka was based on the surmised reluctance of clubs to release their star players in August.

Admittedly, that also had a bearing on the matter, he said, "but the decisive factor was finance."

"Every Asian country who goes to the Merdeka gets its fares paid."

"Australia — and this has been made clear to us — would have to pay its own way."

"The only contribution we could expect would be the accommodation, meals and some pocket money to the players."

Bayutti said the NSW Federation was wholeheartedly for Asian tours — provided the ASF didn't go broke in the process.

"The victory in the Saigon tournament last November

ber cost Australia over \$20,000," he said.

"This is the sum of money spent on the preparation of the team and the tour.

"What we got back was peanuts." (See excerpts from the tour managers' report on this page).

If that is the case, it is surprising that the ASF is playing coy with the Malaysian FA; it would be ever so much better to tell them:

a). we would like to compete at the Merdeka and b). as one of the top teams in the region, want our fares to be paid.

Perhaps the Malaysians will agree, perhaps they won't. But at least we will know where we stand.

Because at present, all excuses to postpone the inevitable day when we do compete in this prestige tourney sound hollow and unsubstantiated.

— Paul Dean

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# PRAGUE, A.P.I.A. SHARE GROUP LEAD

Pan Hellenic, as expected, recorded their third straight win when they inflicted a 2-0 defeat on South Coast United at the Showground last Friday night.

Pan Hellenic are now assured of an Australia Cup berth (provided there is an Australia Cup, that is!) APIA and Prague, the joint leaders in Group "A" have also almost qualified as a result of their comfortable victories last Sunday.

Manly, Polonia and South Coast are the only teams without a victory in the Ampol Cup, the latter the only side which suffered three consecutive losses — 0-2 each time.

Last weekend's match reports:

## Last Friday:

### Scoreless draw

The anticipated Pan Hellenic goal-riot against South Coast last Friday did not eventuate, but the small crowd was treated to a fast-moving, all-action match.

Despite their defeat, South Coast showed marked improvement on previous displays and certainly looked better than Polonia or Yugal, who played a listless, scoreless draw in the early match.

The draw gave Polonia their first points of the series, but they are still chasing that elusive first goal of 1968.

#### Polonia v.

#### Yugal 0-0

Polonia earned their first Ampol points in a lifeless match which neither side deserved to win.

The game developed from the start into a sky-high ball-slugging contest with little regard for constructive football.

Neither side had much control over the ball or even tried to set some sort of a pattern of play, with the result that the standard was depressing.

Both sets of forwards were too slow and the few shots towards goal were either off the mark or too weak to present a serious threat.

However, despite the boring pattern of play that developed, I cannot understand why Polonia substituted their new Polish forward Kulak in the second half.

Surely he didn't set the Showground on fire with his passing, but his skill with the ball was evident as he was in every move that remotely looked like producing a goal.

In fact, the only good save of the match by Yugal goalkeeper Lujich was off a hard drive by him in the 15th minute when he cleverly intercepted a well-executed pass by Krawiarz.

Joe Alagich, Yugal's elusive speedster, was too well subdued in the centre-forward position to be of any value to his team's attack.

To get full value from his talent, Yugal must seriously consider playing him again in his natural position on the wing where his long, accurate crosses could be converted into match-winning goals.

Both defences handled the respective attacks with an air of easiness and confidence, with the lanky Halpin starting for Yugal, and Dzialach was in complete control for Polonia.

### AFTER EASY WINS

The same pleasing pattern of football continued in the second half and soon after the resumption, Pan Hellenic sealed their win when Laraman converted a perfect pass from Karyannis on the right flank.

For South Coast United, Ringland and Ramage were the best in the defence, while in the forwards Paterson and newcomer Alston showed promise.

To single out any of the Pan Hellenic players would be unfair, as the side gave a polished collective performance with all the players fulfilling their role impeccably.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 2,800 (double-header). — Charles Spiteri

Pan Hellenic: Clarke; Johnston, Hignett; Westwater, Mallard, Omeros, Smith, Karyannis, McCulloch, Laraman, Blitz.

South Coast: Ramage; Ringland, Akers; Harrison, Carr, Davies, Beattie, Alston, Mulqueeney, Freeme, Paterson.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 2,800 (double-header). — Charles Spiteri

where they were going, but got there with direct, intelligent soccer which had the stamp of coach Venglos stamped all over it.

Though it was left to English newcomer Thorne to score a hat-trick, all three Prague goals were the result of collective moves in which at least three players had a hand.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 2,800 (double-header). — Charles Spiteri

strong-arm tactics which may boomerang some day.

To describe the match in detail would be fastidious because Prague launched ten attacks to Melita's one, and in the second half we only counted one Melita shot at goal whereas goalie Eaton was called upon to save shot after shot.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 2,800 (double-header). — Charles Spiteri

Prague: King; Harcombe, Moulson; Blacker, Rootsey, Blanco; Gauto, Manuel, Scheinflug, Thorne, Hoggart.

Melita Eagles: Eaton; Falzon, Woods; De Bruin, Cilia, Hewlett; Price, Nemet, Kovacs (Azzopardi), Goldie, Wolowszczykow.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 2,800 (double-header). — Charles Spiteri

#### AMPOL TABLES

##### GROUP "A"

APIA	3	2	—	1	5	2	29
Prague	3	2	—	1	5	2	29
Canterbury	2	1	1	—	5	4	22
Croatia	2	1	—	1	3	3	15
Melita E.	3	1	—	2	3	6	15
Manly	3	—	1	2	3	8	8

##### GROUP "B"

P. Hellenic	3	3	—	—	9	—	45
Hakoah	2	2	—	—	5	1	29
Yugal	3	1	1	1	2	4	19
St. George	2	1	—	1	4	3	16
Polonia	3	—	1	2	—	6	5
SCU	3	—	—	3	—	6	0

## RESULTS TABLES

#### GROUP

##### "A"

APIA	●	Canterbury	●	Croatia	●	Manly	●	Prague	●	Melita Eagles	●
Canterbury	●	3-2	2-2								
Croatia	2-3	●									
Manly	0-2	2-2	●								
Prague	2-1	0-1	●								
Melita Eagles	0-2	3-1	0-3	●							

#### GROUP

##### "B"

Hakoah	●	Pan Hellenic	●	St. George	●	South Coast	●	Yugal	●
Pan Hellenic	●	3-0	●	2-0	2-0	4-0			
Polonia	0-3	●	0-3	●		0-0			
St. George-B'pest	1-3	3-0	●	●					
South Coast	0-2	0-2	0-4	0-0	●	0-2	●	●	
Yugal	0-4	0-0	2-0	●					

## SYDNEY PROGRAM

## THIS WEEKEND

#### AMPOL CUP

##### Friday, February 23

Croatia v. Melita Eagles — Showground, 7.30 p.m.

APIA v. Canterbury — Showground, 8.55 p.m.

##### Sunday, February 25

St. George-Budapest v. Yugal — Wentworth Park, 2.15 p.m.

Pan Hellenic v. Hakoah — Wentworth Park, 3.35 p.m.

## NEXT WEEKEND

#### AMPOL CUP

##### Friday, March 1

South Coast v. St. George — Showground, 7.30 p.m.

Hakoah v. Polonia — Showground, 8.55 p.m.

##### Sunday, March 3

Canterbury v. Prague — Wentworth Park, 2.15 p.m.

Manly v. Croatia — Wentworth Park, 3.30 p.m.

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Campbell, who replaced Campana at halftime, put APIA in the lead in the 43rd minute and four minutes later Manly's visitors for an upset collapsed when Keddie made it 2-0. From then on there was only one team on the field: Manly hardly ever crossed the halfway mark, were continually pressed on their goal line and only sheer bad luck and some unfavorable

players undertook. It wasn't that Prague played spectacular, breathtaking football, but there was a sense of purpose in everything most of their players knew.

This purpose was sadly lacking in Melita Eagles — a collection of spare parts which just ran and ran and ran, without ever looking like getting anywhere.

Prague not only knew

# Wentworth Park clash should be a sizzler

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Sunday's clash at Wentworth Park between the unbeaten giants of Group "B", Pan Hellenic and Hakoah, promises to be the best match of the season to date.

The match is not only likely to produce a feast of all-action football but may be a pointer to the Ampol Cup final as both teams rate as early Cup favorites at this stage.

On Friday night, in Group "A", APIA should capitalize on Prague's inactivity to go to a commanding lead.

The weekend previews:

## Croatia v.

## Melita Eagles

Vastly superior in defence and certainly no worse than Melita Eagles in attack, Croatia are in with a big chance on Friday to join Prague and APIA near the top of Group "A".

We don't think they'll let this opportunity to assert their Ampol and Australia Cup ambitions slip by.

Despite their defeat against Canterbury — an unlucky loss at that — Croatia's displays to date have been more impressive than Melita's.

Melita Eagles' forwards would present little worry for a defence which can boast players of the calibre of Corry, Lincoln and Shepherd, who are well up in national class, without omitting the equally efficient, if less fancied, Curry and Sloan.

For the Melita forward line, badly in need of a striker, a playmaker and two efficient wingers, to score one goal against the Croatia defence would be an achievement in itself.

But they can't feel too confident about kicking even one at the back of Corry's net.

Croatia, on the other hand, have much better prospects in attack, even though they are

still without the services of the Cush brothers and the recalcitrant Reynolds.

Their youngsters, John Yaager, Frakes and Barboutis have all shown promise.

The one youthful talent at Melita's disposal — Gary Quested — was inexplicably dropped last Sunday though he acquitted himself more than creditably against Manly.

Unless Nemet and Kovacs

show out better, they definitely won't be the answer to the Eagles' prayers, and the management will have to re-embark on an orgy of large-scale buying before the competition gets under way.

Croatia's big edge in defence and Giles' leadership in attack points to a Croatia win.

## APIA v.

## Canterbury

Friday's late game should see APIA jump to the lead in their group.

Their comfortable win over Manly and Canterbury's hard-fought draw with the seafarers seems to point to a third Ampol Cup victory for the 1967 premiers.

The Berries, however, cannot be underestimated, as Croatia discovered two weeks ago.

The effervescent Gerry Hood will have to be the object of close surveillance if APIA are to win as comfortably as they confidently expect.

Given the smallest half-chance, Hood could wreck APIA's hopes for complete rehabilitation and climb back to the top where they feel they belong.

Canterbury, however, as long as they are without Rinios and Ninaus, remain a one-man forward-line while APIA can call on at least three top-class forwards.

All through the Ampol Cup Canterbury have mounted deadly dangerous breakaways, and will certainly again attempt these tactics to break up the tough, no-nonsense APIA defence.

Giacometti's overdue return to form in the second half last week indicates he may explode Friday night and goalie Demopoulos would be well advised not to expose himself.

If APIA can subdue Hood, their defence shouldn't have too much to worry about and it will be up to their forwards to do the rest.

This we feel they can accomplish if they don't commit the fatal error of taking the Berries too lightly.

## St. George v. Yugal

Cup holders St. George must win, and win well, if they are to stay in the race for the semifinals.

But they must not only win, but turn in a display which will erase the memory of their depressing performance against Hakoah in their last outing.



GEOFF MORGAN  
(St. George-Budapest)

Their defence, however solid and efficient, alone, won't see them through — not even for a draw as against the ineffective Polonia.

St. George have enough talent in their ranks to snatch a win anytime, against any opponent, irrespective of the form of some players.

Yugal are not in such a lucky position: defence and attack must combine harmoniously, with all 11 players working smoothly if they are to stand a chance against any of the recognized "big guns".

The match is also vital for Yugal because defeat would put them out of the Australia Cup running.

The stage is set for an entertaining curtain-raiser to the exciting late match where we expect St. George to return to the winning list, but a draw, if Yugal are in the mood, would hardly shock us into stupor.

## Hakoah v. Pan Hellenic

The clash between these two unbeaten teams should be a real hum-dinger, and if Wentworth Park on Sunday doesn't attract by far the biggest crowd of the season to date we might as well take up archery.

This game has all the ingredients of a 70-minute thriller capable of producing excitement, tension, an abundance of good football, and perhaps a fair measure of goals thrown into the bargain.

Despite Baartz, Barnett and possibly Watkiss and newcomer Keddie in Hakoah's attack, Pan Hellenic have the pull in attack.

Laraman, in devastating form, will be the man to watch: he will be desperately determined to confirm his startling improvement at the expense of the team which transferred him last season because of his mediocre finishing ability.

Hakoah's forward-line is potentially devastating, but so far this season has never been at full-strength and yet has to reach a pinnacle, despite five goals in two matches.

In defence, Hakoah are ahead of their opponents, and it's doubtful if any other team in Sydney can match them in this division — even with players of the calibre of Edwards, Hillsdon, Fekete and Wilson on the sidelines because of an enviable abundance of riches.

Pan Hellenic's defence still has to concede a goal, but Sunday will be their acid test as in their three games to date they've never come across a forward-line of Hakoah's standard.

For Pan Hellenic the match will clearly indicate their true capabilities because a win, or even a fine display in defeat against one of the top competition contenders, will prove their form to date hasn't been a flash in the pan due to the weaknesses of their opponents.

We expect all-action from the start here and unless one side shows superiority right from the kick-off, then it could be a cliff-hanger until the final whistle.

Pan Hellenic's pacy attack and Hakoah's sure-footed, reliable defence should have a no-holds barred duel, the outcome of which is hard to predict.

We won't take the easy way out and forecast a draw, but stick our neck on the chopping block and give Hakoah the slightest of nods.



Manly goalie Tuinman clutches the ball and APIA wizard Campana turns away in disgust.

## PROBABLE TEAMS

### CROATIA v. MELITA EAGLES

CORRY	1	EATON
LINCOLN	2	FALZON
SLOAN	3	WOODS
CURRY	4	DE BRUIN
SHEPHERD	5	CILIA
SNEDDEN	6	HEWLETT
YAAGER	7	PRICE
WRIGHT	8	NEMET
BARBOUTIS	9	KOVACS
GILES	10	GOLDIE
FRAKES	11	AZZOPARDI

Referee: J. HENKELMAN

### APIA v. CANTERBURY

TAYLOR	1	DEMOPoulos
NUTTALL	2	DUGGAN
ACKERLEY	3	DRIKOS
HUGHES	4	GALBRAITH
VAN BLERK	5	WHITEHEAD
BOTTALICO	6	ROMANOS
KEDDIE	7	KAUZ
CAMPANA	8	HARDIE
BLUE	9	HOOD
GIACOMETTI	10	RAEBURN
McKINNON	11	PAXINOS

Referee: H. PARSONS.

### ST. GEORGE v. YUGAL

HAFFEY	1	LJUJIC
TAYLOR	2	NACINOVIC
HILLARY	3	CRNICH
SCHAFFER	4	STOSICH
MORGAN	5	HALPIN
ZUCKERMAN	6	RAFANELI
GALAMBOS	7	VOLAR
CLISS	8	EDWARDS
WARREN	9	J. ALAGICH
FERNANDEZ	10	PACANIN
SCHAUMAN	11	VESICH

Referee: M. BUCHANAN

### HAKOAH v. PAN HELLENIC

FUZES	1	CLARKE
STEWART	2	JOHNSTON
HILLSDON	3	HIGNETT
GARDINER	4	WESTWATER
MARNOCHE	5	MALLARD
YAAGER	6	OMEROS
EDMUND	7	SMITH
BARNETT	8	KARYANNIS
WATKISS	9	McCULLOCH
BAARTZ	10	LARAMAN
JONES	11	BLITZ

Referee: K. LOCKREY.

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## ROUND THE WORLD

### Santos' brilliant comeback

The recent eight-team Santiago (Chile) international tournament brilliantly confirmed Santos' resurrection. Santos won the series with 12 points from six wins and one defeat. The table behind Santos read: East Germany 10 points, Universidad Católica 10, Vasas Budapest 8, Czechoslovakia 7, Universidad Chile 5. Farkas of Vasas and Toninho (Santos) were the leading scorers with seven goals each. Some 850,000 spectators watched the 27-day long tournament.

### Name not enough

Did you know that Manchester United manager Matt Busby has a son who made a vain bid to emulate his father's soccer renown? In the fifties, Alex Matthew Busby played for Oldham Athletic and Blackburn Rovers, but then he quit the game, and now manages a pub not far from Rochdale.

### A lesson for Australia?

Soccer is slowly taking over from baseball as Venezuela's national sport. The thousands of immigrants from Spain, Italy and Portugal, who have been attracted by the country's oil boom since 1945, are creating a new soccer-mad generation. Most clubs rely on a vast majority of imported players, but a new rule was introduced this season whereby each club must field three local players (shades of Australia?). This figure will be raised each year to eventually make Venezuela's soccer almost entirely national.

### Puskas' fabulous record

Ferenc Puskas has one of the greatest records of any European player. The Hungarian and Spanish international's record reads: seven times Hungarian champion with Honved; Olympic champion with Hungary in 1952 and world vice-champion in 1954; world club champion with Real Madrid (1960); European champion (1960); six times Spanish champion, winner of the Spanish Cup, four times top Spanish goalscorer, 84 Hungarian and four Spanish caps and one appearance in the European and FIFA XIs.

### French manager under fire

Louis Dugauguez, the French national team manager, is under heavy fire for not selecting Nestor Combin in the national side. Combin is currently heading the Italian goalscoring list. Dugauguez, however, refuses to select players operating abroad, but French critics rightly feel that France cannot afford to leave Combin and Muller, the Barcelona halfback, out of the team which meets Yugoslavia in the quarterfinals of the European Championship on April 6 and 24.



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The dismal showing of the Czechoslovakian national team in Chile has drawn widespread criticism from many quarters. On their return to Prague it is expected that coach Josef Marko will hand in his resignation. The new Czech national coach may be Sobotka, the former coach of FC Basel, who toured Australia in 1964.

### Montreal plans tournament

Montreal will stage a big soccer tournament on the site of Expo '67 in July. Tentative invitations have gone out to Santos, Inter Milan, Benfica, Olympiakos, St. Etienne, Dynamo Moscow and Tottenham. The eighth competing team will be Canada's national side, which will participate in the Central and North American World Cup qualifying group.

### Masopust's transfer okayed

The Czechoslovakian FA will not stand in the way of Josef Masopust if he wants to move abroad at the end of the current season. Masopust is keen to end his career in Belgium where he has many friends. The club likeliest to get him is the obscure, unfashionable Crossing Molenbeek. The Czech FA, although opposed to allowing players to leave the country, will make an exception for Masopust in recognition for immense services rendered.

• Handsome and brilliant Argentinian World Cup star, Silvio Marzolini, has become an actor. He is the star of a Peyton Place-type serial on Buenos Aires television.

• Ajax Amsterdam will not release any players for Holland's South American tour in June.

• Puskas' testimonial match will be staged in Madrid on October 11.

• Helenio Herrera will have to appear in court. Two weeks ago his car collided with a 17-year-old youth on a pushbike. The cyclist, luckily, only suffered minor injuries.

• The USSR national team returns to Mexico next month for three matches against the local national side — on March 3, 6 and 8.

• Juventus have offered \$200,000 for Atalanta's ace goalscorer, 19-year-old Savoldi, plus their own centre-forward De Paoli.

• Thailand's national team returns to Europe in May for a 17-match tour. The Thais visited Europe three years ago where they played 13 games for 12 defeats and one draw.

• More South American Champions' Cup results: Palmeiras (Brazil) v. Deportivo Galicia (Venezuela) 2-1; Wilsterman (Bolivia) v. Always Ready (Bolivia) 3-0; Independiente Buenos Aires (Argentina) v. Millionarios Bogota (Colombia) 2-1; Guarani (Paraguay) v. Nacional (Uruguay) 2-2; Deportivo Galicia (Venezuela) v. Nautico (Brazil) 2-1.

• Sir Stanley Matthews flew to Rabat, the Moroccan capital, last week to receive the insignia of the Ouissam Alaoui order — Morocco's highest award for sporting and civic merit.

• The Swedish FA has decided to call on all its foreign-based players for the coming World Cup elimination matches against France and Norway.

• Glentoran have won the Northern Irish competition. Linfield are runners-up, and Cliftonville woodenspooners.

• US club, Detroit Cougars, have assembled a strong line-up of British players, including Jim Standen (West Ham), Willie Hunter (Motherwell), Roy Cheetah (Manchester City), Andy Burgin (Sheffield Wednesday) and Angus Moffat (Kilmarnock), which cost them \$100,000.

• More than 1,067,000 people paid to see First Division matches at the halfway mark of the East German competition, giving an average of 12,034 per game.

• No less than 12 Spanish First Division teams have changed managers and coaches since the start of the season.

• Skoblar, Hannover 96's talented Yugoslav international winger, will return home next season. He may play for OFK Belgrade.

• Hans Tilkowski, West Germany's World Cup goalkeeper, has been offered \$25,000 to play in the United States for one season.

• Juan Carlos Lorenzo, the former Argentine team manager, has returned to Spain. He will coach Majorca.

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### Rangers in great demand

Rangers have been offered generous terms for a six-match South American tour in May. The Scots are in great demand in Montevideo, Rio, Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires, mainly because of Celtic's Intercontinental Cup campaign last year. Rangers have been offered \$17,000 per match to play against Penarol and Nacional in Montevideo, Corinthians at Sao Paulo, Botafogo in Rio and Racing and Independiente in Buenos Aires.

### Police guard Napoli coach

Napoli's Italo-Argentinian coach, Bruno Pesaola, has decided to stay on until the end of the season. Pesaola, however, will not tour Australia if Napoli's winter tour comes off. Pesaola has received hundreds of anonymous letters, some threatening to kill him and to blow up his flat because of Napoli's recent string of defeats. Pesaola two weeks ago offered his resignation, but decided to stay until June if offered adequate police protection.

### More trouble for Garrincha

More trouble for Garrincha, the erstwhile "little bird" of Brazilian soccer. He has been hauled to court and threatened with imprisonment unless he settles all the back alimony he owes to his former wife for the upkeep of their seven children. Garrincha, who divorced two years ago, has been officially declared bankrupt. Some come-down when one considers that in 1962 his bank account was a healthy \$120,000!

## SCOREBOARD

**BELGIUM:** Daring v. Racing 1-1; NAC v. Sittardia 1-0; Ajax v. MVV 4-0; NEC v. Twente 1-1; Sparta v. PSV 3-0; Xerxes v. GVAV 1-0.

**ITALY:** Bologna v. Vicenza 2-0; Brescia v. Mantova 0-1; Cagliari v. Fiorentina 3-1; Milan v. Inter 1-1; Napoli v. Spal 1-0; Roma v. Sampdoria 1-1; Torino v. Juventus 2-1; Varese v. Atalanta 2-0.

**FRANCE:** Lyon v. Metz 3-1; Rennes v. Sedan 1-1; Angers v. Sochaux 1-1; Valenciennes v. Marseille 1-0; Lille v. Bordeaux 1-2; Aix v. St. Etienne 1-1; Red Star v. Nantes 0-1.

**GREECE:** Panathinaikos v. AEK 1-2; Aris v. PAOK 2-2; Ethnikos v. Panionios 2-1; Egaleo v. Pierikos 2-1; Apolлон v. Olympiakos Volos 1-1; Vyzas v. Pafiesinikos 1-1; Paneraikos v. Veria 2-3; Olympiakos v. Prodefiki 2-0.

**HOLLAND:** Telstar v. DOS 1-0; Go Ahead v. Feyenoord 1-1; Fortuna v. DWS 4-1.

**PORTUGAL:** Porto v. Tirsense 9-0; Benfica v. Braga 3-0; Sporting v. CUF 4-0; Academica v. Sanjoanense 3-0; Guimaraes v. Belenenses 1-0; Barreirens v. Setubal 1-1; Varzim v. Leixoes 2-0.

**SPAIN:** Espanol v. Sevilla 4-0; Betis v. Barcelona 4-3; Atletico Madrid v. Real Madrid 1-1; Sabadell v. Elche 1-2; Atletico Bilbao v. Malaga 4-0; Valencia v. Pontevedra 6-2; Las Palmas v. Cordoba 4-1.

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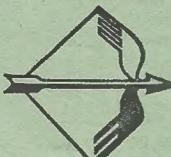
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# CROATIA MAY REACH COOK'S TOUR FIRST AMPOL FINAL OF MELBOURNE

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

Croatia have a chance to make club history at Olympic Park on Friday night when they tackle Juventus in the first semi-final of the 1968 Ampol Cup.

Croatia have never previously appeared in the final. cup competition since they entered the State League, in 1964, when they were beaten by Slavia in the Dockerty Cup.

In fact, they have only made the final of one major Cup.

## Wenzl drops Hellas out of Cup

Needing only a draw against Juventus to qualify for the Ampol Cup semifinal, Hellas looked set to achieve this until 10 minutes into the second half when, with no scoring on the board, Heinz Wenzl booted by taking a step too many to concede a free-kick from which Juventus scored.

This goal won the match and put Juventus in and Hellas out of the semifinals.

In the opening match hot favorites Slavia turned in a lethargic performance against Croatia who, with a single goal win, won their group.

The qualifiers for the semifinals are Hakoah, Croatia, Slavia and Juventus.

Last week's results:

Croatia 1 (Glaser) v. Slavia 0, Juventus 1 (Malloy) v. SM Hellas 0.

The games which were switched from Friday night to Saturday night due to the power cuts were played in hot, sultry conditions but still drew a crowd of 8,329.

With both sides already assured of a place in the semifinals, Slavia and Croatia played without any great purpose and showed little imagination to turn in a well-below average performance.

Only some brilliant individual flashes by a handful of players on both sides kept the crowd from turning their backs on the game.

The second half showed some small improvement and Croatia got the all-important goal in the 57th minute when left-winger Alfred Glaser nipped in to score after the Slavia defence had been ripped wide open with a concentrated Croatia attack.

The second game between Juventus and South Melbourne Hellas showed more fire without reaching any dizzy heights and there were several near misses by both sides before Jim Malloy got the goal which mattered after Heinz Wenzl committed the cardinal error of over-carrying.

In the closing stages Hellas threw everything they had in an effort to level the scores and make sure of qualifying.

Summing up the four performances:

Croatia: Deserved to win especially as they had a rearranged defence through the absence of stopper Hugh Gunn who was signing another contract — getting married. The left-wing pair of Jim McKay and Alf Glaser was a constant worry to Slavia's rear-guard.

Slavia: Adopting a 4-3-3 system, they never looked

However, they face a tough task in Juventus who have to go back to 1959 for their only win in the tournament but are gradually becoming a strong force and a hard side to beat.

A supplementary competition which includes the four sides who failed to qualify for the 1968 Ampol Cup will provide curtain raisers for both semifinals and also the final.

This will be on a strict knock-out basis and the sides taking part are Polonia, Wilhelmina, Lions and Alexander.

This week Polonia and Lions provide the curtain raiser.

The program is: Polonia v. Lions at 7.45 p.m.; Croatia v. Juventus at 9.10 p.m.

### Polonia v. Lions

Both sides and particularly Lions are likely to show several changes from their line-ups of 1967.

Polonia recently signed Marko Pegovic while Vic Janczyk continues as a player only with Polonia.

Lions will be without their ace stopper, Steve Walker, who is still in Scotland on holiday.

Former Sydney player Alan Hillhouse, together with centre forward Tommy Rosewar, could be the players to watch in the Lions attack.

### Croatia v. Juventus

If Croatia can recover some of the teamwork they have lost in their last three games, they could make it really hot for Juventus who never seem completely happy when forced back in defence.

The same of course can be said about Croatia whose rear-guard is far from safe when they have their backs to the wall.

The speed and precision of the Croatia front line is likely to worry Juventus right from the kick-off.

But playing with much more confidence than they did in their opening Ampol Cup match, Juventus suffer from no inferiority complex and their hard-hitting side contest every ball and are strong in the tackle.

### Possible teams:

**Croatia:** Kovacek; Frigano, McArthur; Symington, Bot, Rau; McIntyre, McMeekin, Vojtek, J. McKay, Glaser.

**Juventus:** McDonald; Gentry, Healey; Millar, Corti, Closs; Norman, McColl, Currie, Epifano, Malloy.

### Program for March 1:

7.45 p.m. — Alexander v. Wilhelmina (curtain raiser).

9.10 p.m. — Hakoah v. Slavia (Ampol Cup — 2nd semi-final).

I don't know who was kidding who over the recent announcement that David High, the Slavia left back, had quit the game to concentrate on his insurance post.

But the news that the player has now been transferred to Hellas has not only fooled certain sections of the press and public but also made the original statement which came officially from the Slavia camp a myth.

High had never any real intention to quit: Slavia knew full well that High was using the threat of retirement as a means of bluffing to get a transfer.

For several years Melbourne scoured the local and overseas soccer scene in vain to get a first-class goalkeeper as understudy to Henri Surma.

Not until the middle of 1967 did they resolve their problem when they secured 21-year-old Tommy Gerrard from Scotland where he played with Port Glasgow Juniors and was all set to turn professional with a Scottish League club.

Although Tommy has only appeared in a handful of first team games for Melbourne due to the brilliance of Surma, he is happy with the club who have treated him well.

Still Tommy is all set to step in should Henri lose form or be out for any other reason.

\*\*\*

One of the worst leg breaks in Victorian soccer in recent years befell Joe Hastie the Makedonia forward.

Joe has been out of soccer for the past 18 months during which time he spent a considerable period on crutches.

Now the former Glasgow player who at one time played in the same youth side as Willoughby, the star Rangers forward, is back in serious training and could be fit to resume for Makedonia who were relegated from the State League last year.

\*\*\*

Now that Bill Curran has quit the job as coach to First Division side Maribynong Triestina after only six weeks so that he can take up an appointment as assistant coach under Lou Brocic with Hellas, the Metropolitan side should have little difficulty in finding a worthwhile replacement.

At least half a dozen coaches with plenty of State League experience are out of jobs and are likely to apply for the position.

However, the hot favorite for the Triestina post could be Tony Baggio, the Juventus assistant coach who has already had one spell as coach with the Maribynong side and has also played with them.

\*\*\*

Since the end of last season the majority of the State League clubs have developed a toughening attitude towards players who step out of line for some reason or another.

The change started late in 1967 when Juventus indefinitely suspended wing-half and captain Davie Closs after the player had a rift with club coach Mario Corti.

The suspension was lifted in time for Closs to appear in the first of his club's night soccer games.

The Abonyi saga followed although in this instance it seems reasonably certain that while Ottie was denied the right to move to Sydney his ultimate reconciliation with Melbourne HSC brought him much more favorable terms with the club than he had hitherto received.

\*\*\*

Slavia have denied reports that Mike Jurecki is returning to his former club Polonia.

Polonia have been known for some time to have wanted Mike back, but in a recent chat with the player he showed no great enthusiasm to move from Slavia where he is playing well and is happy.

\*\*\*

In the absence of regular fullbacks Alan Gentry who recently returned from England and Joe Sonsini still absent through business commitments, one reserve defender who has impressed with Juventus has been fullback Brian Healey.

Brian originally played in non-league soccer in the Midlands of England and at one time was personally trained and coached by that great winger Sammy Crooks.

## MENEGHETTI SWEEPS JUVE TO VITAL WIN

Three goals in five minutes from Giovanni Meneghetti gave Juventus a 3-2 win over WA Hellas last Friday night.

The win ended a run of Hellas successes and took goals at halftime.

Juventus to the top of the Ampol Cup league table.

A crowd of 6,000 thrilled to an amazing fight-back by goal after 13 minutes.

Ted De Lyster made it 2-0 with an angled drive seconds before halftime.

Hellas owed their advantage at the interval to their opportunist forwards and the goal-keeping brilliance of Peter Tsitsos.

The former Greek international saved four certain goals and covered every Hellas defensive error.

However, Meneghetti emerged the hero of the match with a hat-trick of long shots.

The former AC Milan junior scored his first pile-driver goal after 63 minutes.

At the 68 minute mark Meneghetti had netted three goals and converted a Juventus defeat into victory.

Tsitsos, who had been cheered as he left the field at halftime, was hooted when he was replaced by Sam Service.

Meneghetti and Juventus coach, Mario Danielli, were accorded pop idol treatment at the end of the game.

Hundreds of excited Juventus fans raced onto the field to chair the pair off.

Victoria sprang the biggest surprise result of the series when they downed Croatia 3-2 in last Friday's early game.

Croatia were expected to help themselves to two easy points against a team that had yet to win a game but they failed to match Victoria's pace and enthusiasm.

Adelaide results:

**Victoria v. Croatia 3-2 (1-0).**

Goals: Whincup 2, Felton 1 for Victoria; Lister 2 for Croatia.

**Juventus v. WA Hellas 3-2 (0-2).**

Goals: Meneghetti 3 for Juventus; Byrne, De Lyster for Hellas.

All matches at Hindmarsh.

— A. Crisp

## Austria face stiff battle

— From ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide —

West Adelaide Hellas should defeat Seacliff-Austria tonight (Friday, February 23) and move a step closer to having another crack at Juventus.

Hellas want to take the Ampol Cup from holders Juventus and avenge last week's loss.

The return of Billy Birch, following his one match suspension, will mean that Austria will have to face a full strength Hellas line-up.

Alex Zervas, who stood in for Birch against Juventus teamed perfectly with Nick Pantelis and was a source of worry to the opposing defence.

Despite his good play, Zervas seems certain to be dropped.

Tonight's late game between Victoria and Beograd could go either way.

Victoria threw off their luckless streak to win against Croatia and now appear set for better things.

The signing of Mick Whincup from Elizabeth City has given Victoria a better balanced attack.

### Program:

Friday, February 23

7.30 p.m. WA Hellas v. Austria.

9.05 p.m. Victoria v. Beograd.

Monday, February 26

7.30 p.m. Austria v. Croatia.

9.05 p.m. Juventus v. Victoria.

Tonight's late game between Victoria and Beograd could go either way.

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# WORLD CUP DRAW

## 'GUARDED OPTIMISM' IS KEYNOTE OF REACTIONS

The World Cup qualifying draw, announced in Casablanca, Morocco, on February 6, was, and still is, a big topic of conversation in world soccer circles.

Understandably some countries are pleased with the draw, others openly hostile, some cautiously optimistic.

To judge the reactions of the various countries, we scanned the world soccer press for the comments of experts as to their chances to qualify for Mexico in 1970.

Here are some typical reactions:

**ITALY (Helenio Herrera):** "Italy cannot feel too confident of beating the East Germans, whose improvement in recent years has been phenomenal. I give Italy no more than a 60-40 chance of getting through to Mexico."

**EAST GERMANY (coach Schoen):** "Once again we've drawn one of Europe's leading teams. But I feel more confident of beating the Italians than I would the Hungarians or Russians".

**USSR (top FIFA official Granatkin):** "Turkey and Northern Ireland must not be underestimated, but Russia should get through to Mexico without losing a match".

### 'BOLD SHOWING'

**NORTHERN IRELAND (former Irish international and Tottenham star, Danny Blanchflower):** "I can't logically tip Ireland, but the Russians don't have too good an international record against the Turks and this may help us put up a bold showing in Group IV".

**SWEDEN (national selector Bergmark):** "I'm just as pleased as the French must feel. France and Sweden have precisely the same chance of qualifying. We'll each win at home, and the matches against Norway may determine the qualifier. A play-off here is likely".

**SWITZERLAND (team manager Alfredo Foni):** "The

Swiss have a knack of qualifying in the World Cup. They can knock the fancied Portuguese out as they did the Swedes in 1962".

**PORTUGAL (Eusebio):** "The draw could have been much harder for us. The Swiss will be our toughest opponents, but we also have something to fear from the Rumanians. But Portugal will certainly defend its third place in Mexico".

**GREECE (Xenos Mitsis):** "Easier than our last World Cup groups, but all Greece can hope for is for wins at home and respectable 'away' performances. Portugal should win the group".

**HUNGARY (new coach Karoly Soos):** "I would have preferred not to meet Czechoslovakia, still a strong force despite recent setbacks. Without exaggerated optimism, however, Hungary should once again reach the final 16".

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA (Masopust):** "The Hungarians will be very hard to eliminate, but we are in with a reasonable chance if we don't slip up against Eire again".

**FRANCE (team manager Louis Dugauguez):** "I'm a cautious man by nature, and don't want to be anything but prudently optimistic. France could have drawn much tougher opponents. Against Sweden and Norway, we have a 50-50 chance, but don't sell the Swedes short. By next year they might again be on the way up".

**SPAIN (Real Madrid coach Munoz):** "Yugoslavia and Belgium are tremendous opponents. This is a group three nations can win without causing a big surprise. Spain must win every home match and collect at least three points away to stand a chance".

**BELGIUM (manager Constant van den Stock):** "A hard

group, but our results against Yugoslavia have always been encouraging. Spain will be the harder of the two. Belgium might not win the group, but I think we won't finish lower than second".

**YUGOSLAVIA (coach Mitic):** "What a group! We couldn't make it in 1966 against the weaker French, but Yugoslav soccer is on the way up and this time I'm confident we'll be in Mexico".

**POLAND (Gornik Zabrze's coach, Kalocsai):** "The draw could have been much tougher. As it is, Poland has a good chance of qualifying, but this is a very even, open group. Bulgaria are entitled to slight favoritism, but I honestly feel Poland will win the group".

**WEST GERMANY (Helmut Schoen):** "By far the strongest preliminary group assembled in any World Cup. Germany, Scotland and Austria all have high credentials. I fear the Scots more than the Austrians, but secretly hope the Austrians will come good and get some points off Scotland, thus helping us indirectly".

**CHILE (former coach Riera):** "Chile were clearly sacrificed to make room for an Asian and African team in Mexico. It is problematic if we can overcome Uruguay, an experienced World Cup specialist".

**BRAZIL (CBD president, Joao Havelange):** "Paraguay is our main threat, but don't forget that in a group of four, upsets are more likely as the slightest point dropped may have great consequences. Brazil, however, should qualify comfortably".

**SCOTLAND (Bobby Brown):** "The toughest group, but I'm confident Scotland can do it. It won't be easy, but I think the Germans may be declining slightly while the Austrians are still in the doldrums. I see Scotland and West Germany in equal first place and playing off".

**BULGARIA (former centre-forward Kolev):** "The danger will come from Holland more than from Poland, whose measure Bulgaria always seems to have. I'm pleased

to see that they will switch to under-18s".

The IDSA has invited the Amateur Association to a meeting to discuss and clarify the matter with the view of abolishing the under-17 competition in favor of a 12-team under-18 competition.

Dapto Olympic have been promoted to First Division in the Illawarra District competition in place of Woonona, who were relegated to Second Division.

During the 1968 season, the First Division will be a 10-team competition, while the Second Division has attracted 12 teams.

New clubs in Second Division include Berkeley United, Russell Vale and Oak Flats.

The Association rejected nominations of two other clubs — Lake South and Cringila United on the grounds that neither club was fostering junior football and sufficient clubs were operating in the areas at present.

— Charles Spiteri

## ILLAWARRA ROUND-UP

There are 81 suspended players on the books of the Illawarra District Soccer Association according to figures released by the Association's secretary, Peter Banks at the Illawarra Management Committee meeting last week.

The committee met to finalise nominations for the 1968 season competitions.

Suspensions include life disqualifications, members of unfinancial clubs, players serving sentences imposed by last season's P and D Committee and several offending players who failed to appear before the committee when instructed to do so.

Players who fail to appear are automatically suspended from the Corrimal Leagues Club knock-out competition and the opening round of premiership matches as the P and D Committee is not likely to meet before the first competition match on April 6.

The Corrimal Leagues Club knock-out competition will be played over three weekends starting on Sunday, March 17.

Peter Banks stressed that at all times a strict watch must be kept on the "black" list as in the past disqualified players had endeavored to use fictitious names to re-enter the game.

However, the introduction of a player's photograph accompanying his registration each season, makes it virtually impossible for an offender to get under the registrar's guard.

Trouble is looming between the Illawarra District Soccer Association and the Amateur Junior Association on the proposed under-17 and under-18 competitions which the two bodies want to conduct.

The IDSA contends that an under-17 competition proposed by the Amateur Junior Association would wreck its under-18 competition.

At the end of last season, the junior body agreed to conduct an under-16 series which would provide early games for the under-18 matches.

Several clubs which favored the under-17 com-

petition have now indicated that they will switch to under-18s".

These club nominees, on satisfactory completion of the course, will be able to greatly assist the referees acting with the authority granted to neutral linesmen in senior football.

It is envisaged that the scheme will further improve the current excellent relationship in Canterbury between referees, players, clubs, Association and supporters.

Officials elected for 1968 are: President: E. George, Senior Vice-President: J. Russell, Hon. Secretary: A. Dobson, Hon. Treasurer: G. Warner.

Members are reminded of the meeting to be held in the Masonic Hall, Duntroon Street, Hurstville Park on March 6.

Any interested person desiring to become a member is invited to attend on this evening at 7.45 p.m.

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## Are figures made to lie?

How much is a top player worth? This, basically, is simple arithmetic provided you run your club according to some fairly sound business principles.

Let's have a test case. Let's suppose, just for argument's sake, that a club would pay a transfer fee of \$8,000 for a player; that they would give him an annual guarantee of \$4,000 for three years.

This would represent a total outlay of \$20,000 over three years — \$6,666 per year. (For the sake of easier reckoning, let's take this as \$7,000).

Now, suppose he plays in ALL 22 competition matches and at least eight others — cups or semifinals, etc. — making it a total of 30 a year.

This represents a match cost of \$233 or, if you prefer, just over \$2.50 per minute.

This is, of course, the total cost to the club; the player's remuneration is considerably smaller: not even \$140 per match or \$1.50 per minute.

And if you remember that there are 22 players and assume that each has roughly an equal share of the ball, you will see that one player has the ball just over four minutes, his earning rate goes up much higher — over \$30 for each minute, actually "played".

But if you want to underline the folly of such undertakings, you can go to further extremes and point out that of the 30 matches this player will play, 11 are "away" fixtures which produce no revenue to his club, leaving only 19 to earn his expensive keep.

In which case his cost per match shoots up to about \$360 and his earnings (\$4,000 divided by 19) to some \$210 per match, to \$2.30 per minute or \$50 per actual "playing minute."

To recoup all this, his club would need over 11,000 extra spectators at 60c each over a season or rather at their 19 income producing matches; some 580 more fans than they had previously.

Of course, if he is a forward, you can calculate his worth in goals.

Say he scores 20 in a year; this earns him \$200 per goal but actually costs his club more — \$350 per goal.

You must also assume that he assists in many other goals — gives the vital last pass, etc. — which in itself is worth half a goal.

In that case he could claim to earn some \$130 for each goal scored or made while his cost to the club would come down to about \$230 per goal.

I can just hear someone saying that this is a crazy game with figures, not taking into consideration many other factors.

Of course it is a crazy game. And an idle one, too. In the first place, whoever would believe the \$8,000 transfer tag or a \$4,000 contract?

— Paul Dean

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